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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL. 221.



AUGUST, 1961

Montana Wage Earners Total 176,300 In July

The number of workers on Montana's payrolls moved upward from June to July with a little less than the usual seasonal strength. At mid July, 176,300 wage earners were receiving pay checks from the state's non-farm employers according to estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This figure represents a gain of 1,000 workers over June payrolls, with the final employment figure for that month set at 175,300. Average June to July employment expansion for the past ten years figures 1,600 workers. Continued seasonal employment expansion was evident in most of the major industry groups but with less force than in June when 8,500 workers were added to payrolls. Employment this July is even with that of a year ago and is the third highest July employment of record. The record was set in July, 1959, when 177,500 were employed. The second highest July employment figure was in 1956 with 17,7400 wage earners.

Exceeds February Low by 16,500

Monthly employment totals in Montana move up and down in response to a variety of seasonal and climatic forces. Non-farm employment is usually over 20,000 higher in July than in February. Employment expansion between these two points this year is only 16,500. Last year the employment growth for the comparable period was 23,800 workers. The average for the past ten years is 20,400. The seasonal expansion shows less this year chiefly because of an open winter which kept many construction and other outdoor workers employed

Paradox of High Employment and Joblessness Dominated Montana's July Labor Market Scene

Montana's reserve labor supply was 11,725 in July, for a near record summer level. Jobseekers continued to outnumber jobs although the margin of difference was reduced by nearly 4,000 work applicants from the June count at the 22 local offices of the Montana State Employment Service. It was the second highest July unemployment figure of record, and totaled 5,300 more than the average July jobseeker total of the past ten years. The near record July employment level indicates that Montana is pulling out of the slump carried over from the economic downturn of 1957-58. Employment gains have been steady but not spectacular. Despite the presence of more favorable labor market trends, the fact still remains that the labor force is growing at a rate faster than the ability of the economy to generate industrial expansion and more jobs. The situation is not peculiar to Montana alone, but is national in scope and significance.

throughout a period when they normally would have been laid off.

Most Industries Record Gains

Over-the-month employment advances occurred in six of the state's eight basic industry groups. A seasonal upsurge in contract construction lifted employment levels in this industry to 16,600 up 1,600 from last month. Main street trade and service establishments each provided 400 more jobs in July largely to meet demands of increased tourist trade. Employment in manufacturing industries was up a moderate 300, with this gain separated into a 200 rise in the durable goods group and 100 in non-durable segments of the industry. One hundred workers were added to both transportation and utility firm payrolls and to finance, insurance, and real estate establishments. All mining employment totaled 7,100 with no gain from June. Seasonal hiring of workers in national parks, forest service, and other federal facilities resulted in a gain of 600 in federal jobs. Employment in local and state government was down 2,500 with the

release of teachers and other school personnel during the summer months.

Year Ago Comparisons Different

Five major industries had fewer employees on payrolls this July than last, but gains in three others canceled out these losses to keep employment this year parallel with that of a year ago. The state's mining payrolls were short 1,000 workers from last July. Service industry payrolls were minus another thousand workers. Railroad employment was down 600, with trade and manufacturing industries down 400 each from the same period. Employment gains of 2,600 in contract construction, 700 in government, and 100 in finance, insurance, and real estate units totaled 3,400 to cancel the loss in these other industry segments.

Employment declines in mining and railroads and to a lesser extent in the lumber industry over the past few years will be difficult to recapture. Production levels in metal mining are equal to or higher than past years with a substantial reduction in the work force.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Jun 1961	2) May 1961	June 1960	June 1961	May 1961	June 1960	June 1961	May 1961	June 1960	June 1961	May 1961	June 1960	June 1961	May 1961	June 1960
3) All Manufacturing.....	6.2	5.4	7.2	5.3	4.3	5.1	3.1	2.7	4.1	1.6	1.5	1.8	.6	.4	1.9
Durable Goods.....	7.6	7.0	7.6	6.5	5.6	5.1	3.1	3.2	4.0	1.6	1.5	1.8	.6	.5	1.7
Primary Metal.....	4.0	1.6	4.6	2.3	1.0	2.0	2.3	3.5	2.1	.6	.9	1.3	.4	.2	.4
3) Nondurable Goods.....	3.5	2.3	6.6	2.9	2.0	5.0	3.3	1.8	4.3	1.5	1.4	1.8	.8	.2	2.3
All Mining.....	9.2	7.3	7.0	3.1	2.3	2.2	4.7	5.6	5.7	1.9	2.4	2.4	1.3	1.6	.5
Metal Mining.....	6.6	4.6	7.1	1.0	.5	1.4	3.3	3.8	6.2	1.5	1.8	2.8	.2	.4	.2

1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures previously revised on more complete returns.
3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Aug. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(411 jobseekers, 76 new, 259 men, 152 women). Hiring in farm and industry down from a year ago. Strike of textile clerks in progress since June 29 has adversely affected the whole economy. Smelter employment rose by 50 men in past month, but some have already been furloughed. No new construction, and reduced farm activity adds to labor market lag.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(2,477 jobseekers, 827 new, 1,731 men, 746 women). Substantial drop in jobseeker files as seasonal job opportunities develop in industry and farm. Construction employment continues at fairly good levels, but with less volume than a year ago. Some building craftsmen still remain unemployed. About 250 on construction payrolls at Yellowstone Dam with tunnel and road work the chief activities. Plumbers' strike ended, but one by glaziers still current. Main street sales down 14 percent from last year chiefly because of drought conditions in trade area. Employment in transportation groups good with exception of railroads. Farm front presents a two-sided picture—grain crops poor but excellent sugar beet yields anticipated. Sweet corn harvest to start mid-August, using Indian labor.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(472 jobseekers, 243 new, 310 men, 162 women). Healthy mid-summer economy marred somewhat by layoff of 60 cement plant workers due to reduced product demand. Employment on commercial, educational, home building, and highway projects at good levels. Local labor supply adequate to meet all current demands. Farm hiring trends good with demands chiefly for hay hands, combine operators, truck drivers, and irrigators.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,403 jobseekers, 263 new, 811 men, 592 women). Metal mining picture continues to show slow improvement with demand only for qualified and experienced men. Closure of long-established department store on August 1 idled 80 employees; volume at other retail establishments not strong enough to absorb these workers. One unit of major gas and oil company office transferred to another state. Building and road construction projects practically nil. Short crews employed on 3 highway overpasses near city.

CUT BANK—(376 jobseekers, 123 new, 258 men, 118 women). Active job applicant file up due to transient workers seeking employment and reduced construction activity. Work on pipeline to Canadian border is only new construction in area. Hail damage to an estimated 50,000 acres of crop land held agriculture hiring to minimum.

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	July 1961	June 1961	July 1960	July Avg. 1952-61
Industrial Employment	176,300	175,300	176,300	171,100
New Job Applicants	3,982	5,285	5,286	3,849
Job Applicants, End of Month	11,725	15,619	8,038	6,392
Insured Unemployment, Week of	Aug. 4 1961	July 7 1961	Aug. 5 1960	Avg. 1st Aug. Wk. 1957-61
New and Renewal Claims	619	736	623	537
Unemployed Weeks Filed	3,374	4,091	2,892	3,120
Total Unemployment Claims	3,993	4,827	3,515	3,657

DILLON—(116 jobseekers, 212 new, 83 women). Farm picture remains critical due to prolonged hot, dry weather. Irrigation water short, and some mountain springs drying up. Hay crop yields reduced considerably and range feeds short. Only fair crop of winter wheat expected. Building and road projects on schedule with sufficient labor to meet demands. New projects in offing include several service stations, river bridge, and highway improvement project.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(504 jobseekers, 109 new, 263 men, 241 women). Surplus of construction workers in area due to slow start of some air base projects. About 100 workers expected to be employed on housing units. Main street business down from year ago, with less turnover noted in employment as workers stay on existing jobs. Drought conditions cut grain yields to 10 bushels an acre and reduced demand for men and machines.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wihaux—(110 jobseekers, 81 new, 69 men, 41 women). Nearly half of July hiring comprised workers on hail damaged buildings; an estimated \$1,000,000 in insurance payments made. Work in oil fields and construction still slow. One highway project active with little hiring. Some improvements noted in trade channels and should hold steady through fall.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,776 jobseekers, 560 new, 1,151 men, 625 women). Labor market patterns nearly the same as last year. Majority of July job orders came from trade establishments. Upswing noted in service industries with employers more selective in hiring only qualified workers. Construction employment at peak with full crews on most projects. Demand for engineers, stenographers, and well-qualified food service workers still persists.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(268 jobseekers, 64 new, 155 men, 113 women). Forest fires brought influx of workers to area and provided short-time work for most able-bodied men. Logging activity was on an on-again-off-again basis with crews diverted to fire control. Little change in most labor market patterns from last month with ex-

ception of some employment expansion in service industries. Raspberry, strawberry harvests and sugar beet weeding were main agriculture activities.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(146 jobseekers, 61 new, 73 men, 73 women). Dismal employment outlook of past few months remains unchanged. Weakening labor demand prevalent in most industries including construction, trade, railroads, and agriculture. No new building or highway projects of any volume set for this season.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(507 jobseekers, 204 new, 333 men, 174 women). Construction activity slowed considerably, but influx of transient workers attracted by V. A. hospital and missile site projects continues. Preliminary work begun on V. A. hospital, but no extensive hiring planned until September 1; peak employment expected to be about 150. Local labor supply adequate to meet current demands.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,021 jobseekers, 270 new, 749 men, 272 women). Job expansion in lumbering and logging and cherry packing operations pushed employment to peak levels. Cherry warehouses employed 200 workers. Local supply of timber fallers and sawmill workers exhausted during the month. Five highway construction projects active in area, and additions to two retail establishments begun. Trade and service hiring up with increased tourist traffic. Farm hiring at good levels mostly for hay hands. Idle jobseekers mostly in unskilled

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnet—(372 jobseekers, 104 new, 264 men, 108 women). Industry hiring up appreciably from last year, but big drop evident in farm hiring. Water supply and range feeds extremely short forcing many ranchers to sell their stock. Farm employers exchanging help thereby eliminating many job orders.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(146 jobseekers, 83 new, 74 men, 72 women). Labor market activity has healthy tones with construction, agriculture, and service industry at the forefront. Most construction activity centered in area highway projects. Up-

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1953	147.1	145.9	147.9	151.5	155.2	161.0	162.2	164.1	163.2	162.2	159.9	157.9	156.5
1954	148.8	147.6	149.4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.2
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.4	167.9	175.2	176.3	176.3	174.8	171.5	168.0	165.2	166.6
1961	160.9	159.8	160.2	163.1	166.8	175.3	176.3*						

* Estimate, revised on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. **Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Aug. 1

swing evident in logging and railroad operations. Despite strong lumber market, hiring at sawmills limited due to log shortages. Trade industries exhibited good trends with increased tourism. No new hiring by park service as labor turnover reduced. Farm demands chiefly for hay field workers and experienced irrigators.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(139 jobseekers, 100 new, 104 men, 35 women). Work on highway construction at good pace, but with few new hires. Work on new bank building slowed by shortage of bricklayers forcing layoffs of hod carriers. Construction of new county rest home begun. Weather continues hot and dry affecting farm economy.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(742 jobseekers, 303 new, 430 men, 312 women). Sharp drop in job placements from a year ago due chiefly to reduced demand in forestry and fishery industries. Hiring in clerical and sales fields triple last year, but other industry segments unchanged. Main street business at normal seasonal levels with some shortages of clerical and service workers developing from time to time. Good labor demand on the farm front.

POLSON—(124 jobseekers, 62 new, 82 men, 42 women). Sweet cherry harvest provided employment for 600 workers—450 as pickers and 150 in warehouse operations. Surplus labor which developed was referred to area forest fires. All area lumber mills operating at capacity with minimum labor turnover. Trade and service units active in response to tourist traffic.

SHELBY—(147 jobseekers, 108 new, 93 men, 54 women). Trade, railroads, and service industries provided bulk of July job orders. All construction considerably lower than last year. No new home building started so far this year. Construction of Cut Bank-Canada pipeline will use some area workers in early August. Farm labor demand reduced one-fourth because of hail damaged crops.

SIDNEY—(129 jobseekers, 51 new, 94 men, 35 women). Industry employment continues to lag with reduced construction activity and down trends in trade and service volume. Some small building remodeling projects underway and new high school nearly finished. Several commercial building projects now only in planning stages. Dry land crops produced good yields, but sugar beet estimates appear excellent.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(124 jobseekers, 30 new, 92 men, 32 women). Most major industries operating at peak employment levels with some exceptions. Closure of galena mine at Noxon idled six men. Installation of machinery for concentrating silver and copper ores nearly completed at another mining site. Construction work on commercial, educational, and federal buildings in area at good pace. Second shift of 12 men added to Trout Creek sawmill.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(215 jobseekers, 48 new, 157 men, 58 women). Employment expansion on building projects noted during the month with most skilled workers on jobs. Oil field employment up as two rigs started drilling operations; increased exploration and drilling forecast next 60 days. Poor grain crops in area reduced demand for men and machines.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	July 1961 (2)	June 1961 (3)	July 1960	June '61 to July '61	July '60 to July '61
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	176,300	175,300	176,300	1,000	00
Manufacturing	20,600	20,300	21,000	300	400
Durable goods.....	13,200	13,000	13,400	200	200
Lumber and timber products.....	7,900	7,900	7,700	00	200
Primary metals.....	3,500	3,400	4,000	100	500
Other (4).....	1,800	1,700	1,700	100	100
Nondurable goods.....	7,400	7,300	7,600	100	200
Food and kindred products.....	4,300	4,200	4,200	100	100
Printing and publishing.....	1,600	1,600	1,600	00	00
Petroleum refining.....	900	900	1,000	00	100
Other (5).....	600	600	800	00	200
Mining	7,100	7,100	8,100	00	1,000
Metal mining.....	4,100	4,100	5,100	00	1,000
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic.....	800	800	700	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production.....	2,200	2,200	2,300	00	100
Contract Construction	16,600	15,000	14,000	1,600	2,600
Contractors, building construction.....	5,500	5,100	5,600	400	100
Contractors, other than building.....	5,900	4,900	3,800	1,000	2,100
Contractors, special trade.....	5,200	5,000	4,600	200	600
Transportation and utilities	19,200	19,100	19,800	100	600
Interstate railroads.....	8,800	8,700	9,600	100	800
Transportation except railroads.....	4,300	4,200	4,100	100	200
Utilities including communication.....	6,100	6,200	6,100	100	00
Trade	42,200	41,800	42,600	400	400
Wholesale trade.....	8,700	8,500	8,800	200	100
Retail trade.....	33,500	33,300	33,800	200	300
General merchandise and apparel.....	6,000	6,100	6,300	100	300
Food stores.....	5,300	5,100	5,000	200	300
Eating and drinking establishments.....	8,900	8,700	8,900	200	00
Automotive and filling stations.....	6,500	6,500	6,900	00	400
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	6,800	6,900	6,700	100	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,900	6,800	6,800	100	100
Services and miscellaneous	24,000	23,600	25,000	400	1,000
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.....	3,700	3,500	4,100	200	400
Personal services.....	2,300	2,300	2,200	00	100
Other (6).....	18,000	17,800	18,700	200	700
Government	39,700	41,600	39,000	1,900	700
Federal.....	12,100	11,500	11,100	600	1,000
State and local.....	27,600	30,100	27,900	2,500	300
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	24,600	23,800	21,200	800	3,400
Manufacturing.....	3,200	3,100	3,000	100	200
Contract construction.....	4,900	4,200	2,400	700	2,500
Transportation and utilities.....	2,000	2,000	2,100	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	6,100	6,100	5,700	00	400
Services and miscellaneous (7).....	4,900	4,900	4,700	00	200
Government.....	3,500	3,500	3,300	00	200

Statewide employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period January, 1959 to date, will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 895 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,346 such establishments.
- (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.
- (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.
- (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.
- (7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, real estate and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN JULY 1961 AND JULY, 1960

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	July 1961		July 1960		July 1961		July 1960		July 1961				July 1960				Wk. 8-4	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1961	1960
Anaconda	76	3	211	17	411	87	256	36	34	24	58	17	65	57	122	9	205	126
Billings	827	186	669	124	2,477	372	1,278	204	557	793	1,350	298	465	802	1,267	217	809	714
Bozeman	243	66	326	109	472	97	323	55	201	199	400	93	179	255	434	129	122	28
Butte	263	48	492	136	1,403	271	1,145	225	188	12	200	37	336	65	401	119	580	558
Cut Bank	123	31	63	16	376	89	103	19	64	70	134	40	78	86	164	43	53	81
Dillon	212	107	206	97	116	24	90	23	83	340	423	233	104	373	477	210	19	24
Glasgow	109	13	173	26	504	72	300	46	78	33	111	35	168	121	289	95	187	84
Glendive	81	12	145	24	110	21	185	38	117	340	457	50	101	802	903	35	43	7
Great Falls	560	94	750	162	1,776	392	1,073	217	380	629	1,009	204	563	497	1,060	259	448	418
Hamilton	64	13	68	16	268	35	177	19	166	196	362	46	94	123	217	37	47	67
Havre	61	7	89	10	146	41	149	23	86	331	417	114	120	227	347	169	125	95
Helena	204	37	139	21	507	136	332	61	148	104	252	83	448	75	523	252	230	155
Kalispell	270	40	443	85	1,021	219	851	214	368	29	397	62	619	47	666	149	289	374
Lewistown	104	30	52	12	372	79	130	21	169	97	266	101	116	198	314	133	83	47
Livingston	83	19	97	13	146	19	167	27	138	103	241	111	172	102	274	84	70	67
Miles City	100	18	141	29	139	27	90	14	75	459	534	24	82	492	574	48	82	49
Missoula	303	60	339	105	742	142	624	161	323	237	560	121	568	218	786	297	298	358
Polson	62	2	497	71	124	27	269	34	195	819	1,014	269	150	611	761	293	65	118
Shelby	108	27	144	40	147	26	189	46	91	158	249	62	135	245	380	74	67	34
Sidney	51	3	94	7	129	13	54	15	57	1,442	1,490	22	73	1,403	1,476	47	32	10
Thomp. Falls	30	5	44	7	124	24	121	17	27	11	38	9	62	14	76	27	55	59
Wolf Point	48	9	104	17	215	4	132	25	41	40	81	19	38	81	119	33	84	42
TOTALS	3,982	830	5,286	1,144	11,725	2,217	8,038	1,540	3,586	6,466	10,052	2,050	4,736	6,894	11,630	2,759	3,993	3,515

*Includes 106 claims of the Fed. UC Program 87 same a year ago. 1,444 claims under the Fed. TEC program not included.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July (1) 1961	June (2) 1961	July 1960	July (1) 1961	June (2) 1961	July 1960	July (1) 1961	June (2) 1961	July 1960
All Manufacturing	\$100.30	\$ 99.90	\$ 95.34	39.8	39.8	38.6	2.52	2.51	2.47
Durable goods	99.04	100.10	92.69	39.3	40.2	38.3	2.52	2.49	2.42
Primary metals	105.04	102.80	97.36	40.4	40.0	39.9	2.60	2.57	2.44
Nondurable goods	102.00	98.64	101.49	40.8	39.3	39.8	2.50	2.51	2.55
Food and kindred products	87.33	84.67	86.11	42.6	41.1	41.8	2.05	2.06	2.06
All Mining	106.59	108.54	103.86	38.9	40.2	40.1	2.74	2.70	2.59
Metal mining	107.36	107.71	102.96	38.9	39.6	39.0	2.76	2.72	2.64
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	97.06	98.76	96.92						
Transportation (except railroads)	100.26	104.45	108.05						
Utilities and communication	95.04	95.04	89.08	39.6	40.1	38.9	2.40	2.37	2.29

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

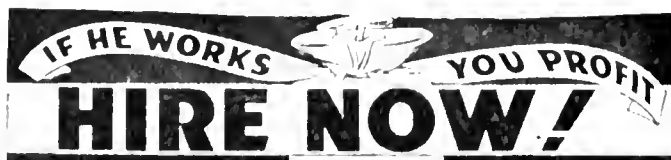
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